

**VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2014 MEETING**

**Present:** Juli Brazile. Joey Glushko Mary Harrison, Jane and Pete Howard, Charles Kalauskas, Elizabeth Karpati, Carol Kowalski, Josh Lobel, Paul Schlichtman.

**Absent:** Kathleen Bodie, Steven Byrne, Adam Chapdelaine, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Gordon Jamieson, John Leone, Cheryl Miller, Brucie Moulton. Angela Olszewski, Michael Stern.

**Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

**Minutes** of the October meeting were accepted as presented; those of the November meeting were accepted as amended. Elizabeth announced that she won't be able to do the minutes much longer, and asked committee members to consider whether any one person was willing to take over this task or whether they wanted to do it in rotation.

**Quorum:** Town bylaws do not specify a quorum for the Standing Committee. The usual number for a quorum is over half of a group's membership, which would be 18 for the SC. it has probably never had a meeting with that many official members present. Juli has not yet spoken to the Town Counsel about this. He could be asked if we should submit a warrant article establishing a lower quorum for the SC. Minutes are required by the Open Meeting Law; informal meetings without a quorum and informal "notes" apparently would not be sufficient.

**Master Plan** (Carol K. and Charles K.)

Over 90 comments on the draft Master Plan were made on the Town website and forwarded to the consultants. The final draft will be presented at a public meeting on January 12. To become valid, it has to be accepted by the Redevelopment Board, which will then ask for the endorsement of Town Meeting. Several precinct meetings for Town Meeting members on the Master Plan are also planned

The Master Plan puts an emphasis on fiscal stability. Arlington has the third lowest tax base out of 12 communities and has large population groups in the school-age and senior categories. The Plan calls for more multi-use buildings (apartments above stores) but the Plan itself cannot change zoning – only Town Meeting can do that. There was inconclusive discussion about how best to present the Plan to Town Meeting. If Arlington doesn't have enough growth – and there is not much room for that – it will be stuck with a choice between periodic Proposition 2 ½ overrides and cuts in services.

**Task Group Reports:** **Diversity** is trying to plan something about the racial unrest provoked by the Ferguson and New York shootings. **Environment:** **Spy Pond** is planning the Spy Pond Splash. **Reservoir** did not meet in November. **Fiscal Resources** responded to the Master Plan that the Plan does not address points made by the committee in last year's input and does not acknowledge the work done by volunteers. **Public Art** will have a retreat with a consultant on Saturday, February 14, 2015. Current and future projects include the artwork on transformer boxes, the Art Rocks Spy Pond exhibit, and another round of "Chairful."

The question of paying for locations for precinct meetings was raised. Using a school for an evening meeting requires paying for custodians. This question could be considered by **Governance**. Perhaps the SC could offer partial payment if more than a certain number of precincts could schedule their meetings at the same time in the same school.

**True Story Theater** will conduct a workshop with Sustainable Arlington and the Recycling Committee on January 31, 2015. On March 14 there will be a public presentation on recycling (following the EcoFest on March 7).

**Survey 2016:** Our old software is no longer supported and may not be able to process the 2016 survey. The Finance Committee does not support our request for funds for new software. The 4-page survey in 2014 got a better response than previous 6-page surveys. The yet-to-be-formed CPA (Community Preservation Act) Committee and the Human Rights Commission would probably have questions for the 2016 survey.